

of Delegates, and should we not agree upon some compromise ground, a future Convention might deprive us of that advantage.

An important principle has been settled by the vote on the basis of representation in the Senate, where territory and county lines have been placed, where the extremists of the county advocates might be satisfied. This was a "*sine qua non*" with him. That being conceded, he felt more disposed to give an increased representation to a limited extent, to the city of Baltimore, and the larger counties. This should be met with a corresponding spirit, in which case Mr. J. thought we might agree upon a compromise which would give general satisfaction. He regretted to see the course pursued by some gentlemen, in and out of this house, as regards old party divisions, and to bring into disrepute this body. Some of the partizan editors throughout the State, and especially those in the city of Baltimore, had denounced the Convention from its commencement, as if they were the only guardians of the people's rights, and the only judges of a fit constitution. This might have been expected. But that members of this body should lend their aid to administer to popular clamor against the acts of the Convention, to gain a little eclat at home, and excite one portion of our fellow citizens another, he did not anticipate.

Great efforts had been made during the discussion of the elective franchise report to prejudice the naturalized foreign citizens of this State against a large number of the members of the Convention, because they did not break down all the guards around the ballot box and permit every foreigner to vote the day he was naturalized. That question had been ably and elaborately argued on both sides, and the representation from the city of Baltimore, had shown much ability and perseverance in support of what they termed the rights of foreigners, not last amongst the foremost was the learned Attorney General, but not one word was heard from that quarter in defence or protection of the just rights of American born citizens, against the frauds committed annually at the polls by illegal voting.

Had a stranger come within these walls during those discussions, he might well have supposed that the population of Maryland was composed solely of naturalized foreigners.

[Here Mr. Jenifer gave way to the suggestion of several gentlemen with the understanding that he would be entitled to conclude his remarks tomorrow.

On the following day, Mr. J. concluded his speech as follows:

Mr. J. said, he felt greatly indebted to the courtesy of the Convention for allowing him to proceed this morning, which he could best repay by bringing his remarks to a close as speedily as possible. After reviewing some of the statistics of yesterday, he said, he regretted to feel compelled to respond to remarks which had been made both in this House and elsewhere, of a party character and which we well calculated to prejudice the public mind against a portion of this Convention. Coming as they did from so

high a source, who seemed to speak the language of the party, they could not otherwise than have great effect.

Mr. J. said, in looking over the morning papers and reading an account of the proceedings of a dinner on St. Patrick's day, in the city of Baltimore, he was surprised, though not shocked to see the report of a speech, delivered at that dinner by the learned Attorney General, then as now, a member of this Convention, in which he is reported to have used the following language:

"Mr. Brent would merely add, that he just came from a popular body comprising representatives of the whole State, assembled at Annapolis, convened by the sovereign voice of the people to revise and remodel our organic law. In that body, he was shocked to hear a proposition, deliberately made a few weeks since, to draw a line of separation, and literally to disfranchise the man of foreign birth—to put a brand upon all who, though American in heart, may, by the accident of birth, have first seen the light of day in another hemisphere. And that proposition, he regretted to say, *base and monstrous* as it was, found many supporters; but he was happy to add that it was indignantly voted down by a majority of the Convention."

Mr. BRENT said that the report of this speech was not exactly correct.

Mr. JENIFER said, he read the speech as reported in the Baltimore Sun.

Mr. J. said that *monstrous* proposition was, that foreigners should be required to reside in the State thirty days, which was ultimately reduced down to six days, before they were entitled to vote.

Mr. J. said, he himself, had not voted for the proposition, believing that a well regulated registry law to apply to the whole State, would correct most of the abuses complained of. It was well understood that these very denunciations were intended to prejudice naturalized foreigners against the members of the whig party, who had voted for these guards against frauds.

Mr. BRENT said, he did not say Whig; he only wished to be put right; he only made the remark in reference to those who voted for that proposition, and he would repeat it. He believed Mr. J. did not vote for it. Mr. J. admitted the gentleman did not use the word Whig—nor was it necessary to unite upon a Gun. This is a gun. Mr. J. said he would ask when had these exclusive friends of foreigners evinced their regard and confidence, except when their votes were required to further the views of the great Democratic party?

With all these professions of confidence and consideration, when had a naturalized foreigner a seat in the Legislature of your State, although in the city of Baltimore there are many of the most intelligent and enlightened of her citizens?

Mr. BRENT said, Mr. Gallagher.

Mr. J. said, if that was the fact he would admit the exception—and he would predict that if the city of Baltimore was not distracted and continued to elect her whole number by general ticket, no foreigner would expect to be a representa-